

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS,  
BUILDING M  
37-55 East Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-213-M

HAER  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
716M-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HAER  
PA  
51-PHILA  
716M-

## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS, BUILDING M

HAER No. PA-213-M

Location:

37-55 E. Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

Present Owner:

Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation  
48 East Penn Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Present Occupant:

Vacant.

Significance:

This modern c.1915 concrete and brick structure was the last addition Daniel F. Waters built during his tenure.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History

#### Date(s) of Erection:

Building M was erected c.1915.

#### Architect:

Unknown.

#### Original/Subsequent Owners:

See Chain of Title.

#### Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:

Unknown.

#### Original Plans/Construction:

Constructed as a power plant/engine room, Building M retains much of its original character.

#### Alterations/Additions:

No major alterations have been done to Building M.

### B. Historical Context

The power plant was the last building erected as part of Daniel F. Waters' expansion of the Germantown Dye Works.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

#### Architectural Character:

Building M is one of the few vernacular industrial buildings at Germantown Dye Works that combines brick with concrete.

#### Condition of Fabric:

Poor.

### B. Description of Exterior

#### Overall Dimensions:

Approximately 40' x 75', 1-story.

#### Foundations:

Concrete.

#### Walls:

Brick, with square concrete and brick piers.

#### Structural System/Framing:

Steel structural system.

#### Porches/Stoops/Balconies/Bulkheads:

Concrete landing in bays on east facade.

#### Chimneys:

Yellow clay tile smokestack.

#### Openings:

##### Doorways/Doors:

In the east facade, there are two openings: one is an unarticulated doorway in the rear of the structure and the other is an open bay at the midpoint. There are three bays on the east facade, framed by concrete piers. The middle bay remains open and accessible to the boilers and the other bays are inlaid with

brick. The west facade contains five bays and the north facade contains three bays.

Windows/Shutters:

Large pane, metal industrial sash throughout.

Roof:

Built-up asphalt roofing with terra-cotta coping.

C. Description of Interior

Floor Plans:

Open, unpartitioned space for location of boilers and other mechanical equipment.  
Office in rear of structure.

Stairways:

Not applicable.

Flooring

Concrete, recessed at spots for power plant equipment.

Wall/Ceiling Finishes:

Unfinished and exposed.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

Modern aluminum doors.

Windows:

Metal sash set into brick wall on all elevations.

Decorative Features and Trim:

Not applicable.

Hardware:

Mid-twentieth century replacement hardware.

Mechanical Equipment:

Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:

Not available.

Lighting:

Modern electrical fixtures.

Plumbing:

Not available.

**D. Site**

General Setting/Orientation:

Building M is situated on Collom Street, at the rear of the Germantown Dye Works complex.

Historic Landscape Design:

According to the 1878 Hexamer Survey, the power plant is located at the site of Loveland's Philadelphia and Germantown Express. This establishment, located on Collom Street, included a stone dwelling, as well as a wagon house and stable, and stretched back to Building K.

Outbuildings:

None.